GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1512
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Implementation of Prevention of Atrocities Act
Marutharajaa Shri R.P.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for effective implementation of Prevention of Atrocities Act;

(b) if so, the provisions made, special courts set up, special Public Prosecutor appointed, setting up of SC/ST protection cells, at State headquarters, special Police Stations, Nodal Officers, State and District level vigilance and monitoring; and

(c) the time by which such plan is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a) to (c): The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989 has been amended in 2015 with an objective to deliver members of SCs and STs greater justice. The amended PoA Act, inter-alia, provides for establishment of Exclusive Special Courts for speedy trial of cases, power of Special Courts and Exclusive Special Courts to take direct cognizance of offences and as far as possible completion of trial case within two months and addition of a chapter on "Rights of Victims and Witnesses".
As per available information, in accordance with Section 14 of the PoA Act, 32 States/UTs have designated District Session Courts as Special Courts.

Section 15 of the PoA Act also provides for specification of Public Prosecutor for conducting cases in the Special Courts. Further for accelerating trial of cases under the PoA Act, 205 Exclusive Special Courts, have also been set up by fourteen States.
Rule 8 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995, requires the State Government to set up an SC/ST Protection Cell, at the State headquarters, under the charge of a DGP, ADGP/IGP. Accordingly, SC/ST Protection Cells have been set up in 25 States/UTs.
As per the available information, Special Police Stations for registration of complaints of offences against SCs and STs have also been set by five States.
As per Rule 9 of the PoA Rules, Nodal Officers have been appointed in 29 States/UTs for co-ordinating the functioning of the District Magistrates and Superintendent of Police and other officers responsible for implementing the provisions of the PoA Act.
State Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up in 31 States/UTs.

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